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## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS AT VANCOUVER, B.C.

By Kenneth Racey.

December 25, 1921 was a bright cold day; the temperature ranged about 24° Fahr. and a frosty mist hung low over the water so that objects farther away than a few hundred feet could not be very clearly discerned. With the aid of field glasses the following birds were observed during the course of an hour's walk along Kitsilano Beach, bordering English Bay, and also through some vacant lots adjoining but above the beach. Time - 10 a.m. The ground was covered with a light fall of snow.

## A.O.U.

2	Colymbus holboelli . . . . .	Holboell's Grebe	1
3	Colymbus auritus . . . . .	Horned Grebe	2
44	Larus glaucescens . . . . .	Glaucous-winged Gull	9
55	Larus brachyrhynchus . . . . .	Short-billed Gull	19
	Sp. ? . . . . .	Merganser ?	1
131	Lophodytes cucullatus . . . . .	Hooded Merganser	4
148	Marila marila . . . . .	Scaup Duck	119
149	Marila affinis . . . . .	Lesser Scaup Duck	4
151	Glaucionetta clangula americana . . . . .	American Golden-eye	4
153	Charitonetta albeola . . . . .	Buffle-head	5
163	Oidemia americana . . . . .	American Scoter	1
165	Oidemia deglandi . . . . .	White-winged Scoter	23
166	Oidemia perspicillata . . . . .	Surf Scoter	95
413	Colaptes cafer collaris . . . . .	Red-shafted Flicker	1
481 e	Melospiza melodia morphna . . . . .	Rusty Song Sparrow	1
489	Corvus caurinus . . . . .	Northwestern Crow	6
533	Spinus pinus . . . . .	Pine Siskin ?	2
567 a	Junco hyemalis oregonus . . . . .	Oregon Junco	5
719 e	Thryomanes bewicki calophonus . . . . .	Seattle Wren	1
	Passer domesticus . . . . .	English Sparrow	5
	Acridotheres christatallus . . . . .	Japanese Starling	42
Total			349

The list shows that 21 varieties numbering 349 individuals were observed. The crows appeared to feel the cold more than any of the other birds and sat huddled up with feathers fluffed out, in the branches of the trees, but they were, I believe, waiting until the tide fell so that they could obtain their accustomed feed of clams and mussels on the beach. The water birds, with the exception of some 40 or 50, were diving for and bringing up mussels which they swallowed whole. At one place about 150 birds were feeding where a drain emptied into the Bay and there could be seen different varieties of ducks and gulls darting here and there, quarreling and diving. The Seattle Wren approached within three feet of where I was standing. It hurried about in a business-like manner hunting for larva and tiny insects, and finally disappeared under the stairs leading down the cliff to the beach. At about 7 a.m. on Christmas morning a Pacific Loon (Gavia pacifica) was heard calling; this, old timers affirm, is a sure sign of the near approach of milder weather. Let us hope that they and the loon are right this time.